

Downtown Truckee pocket park should receive grant, move forward soon

By [Greyson Howard](#)
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TRUCKEE, Calif. — Frozen state funds have been thawed in time to start planning for a new downtown park.

Earlier this year, a \$93,500 grant earmarked for a pocket park planned by the Mountain Area Preservation Foundation and the town on the corner of Bridge and Jibboom streets was put on hold, along with many other grants from the state.

But the Sierra Nevada Conservancy recently notified the foundation the funding will be freed this month, allowing planning to move forward next year, said Kaitlin Backlund, executive director of the group.

“This funding, along with that provided by the Town of Truckee and the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation, is critical to moving this project forward,” Backlund said.

The money will be used for project planning and design, Backlund said, a process she hopes to have community involvement in.

“Right now it's very conceptual — a small cultural plaza with planters around, incorporating community character — whether it's art tiles from local schools, a theme about Truckee history or something about the fish in Trout Creek — it's yet to be seen,” Backlund said.

If all goes smoothly, Backlund said the foundation would like to start construction next summer, with some additional fundraising and volunteers from the community.

“The Trout Creek Pocket Park was identified for improvements during the creation of the Downtown Specific Plan, and we are pleased to be working with MAPF and others in the steering committee to bring this restoration project to fruition,” said Alex Terrazas, assistant manager for the Town of Truckee, in a press release.

So far, planning for the project has received help from the Contractors Association of Truckee Tahoe Community Project, the Truckee River Watershed Council, Sierra Business Council, Truckee Trails Foundation, Local Arts Community, the town and the foundation. LJM Design Group and Foster Engineering have donated services to get the project going, according to a press release from the foundation.

“We hope that as more people become aware of Trout Creek and the unique attributes an urban stream brings to a community, that we will see continued support for restoring the Creek all the way down to where it flows into the Truckee River,” said Lisa Wallace, executive director of the Truckee River Watershed Council in the press release.